

U.S. Southern Command Media Advisory



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Point of Contact:

U.S. Southern Command, Public Affairs Office
SMSgt Ray Sarracino
(305) 437-1213
e-mail: raymond.sarracino@hq.southcom.mil

Media Embark Aboard Hospital Ship USNS Comfort, June 17

DORAL, Fla. — U.S. Southern Command will host an opportunity for South Florida-based news media to embark the hospital ship USNS Comfort from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Sunday.

USNS Comfort will transit the Miami area en route to ports in Latin America and the Caribbean to include Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname. USNS Comfort will provide basic medical and dental care to local populations and will work hand-in-hand with a variety of governmental and non-governmental agencies to provide humanitarian assistance to communities in the countries visited.

The primary mission of the medical treatment facility on USNS Comfort is to provide general and specialty surgical care for children and adults, obstetrical/gynecological consultative care, dental care, and ophthalmologic and optometric services. Public health initiatives will include immunization services, food and water assessments, veterinary services, and epidemiologic and public health consultation. Engineering support will include medical facility repairs and improvements, as well as minor construction projects.

USNS Comfort has two fully equipped operating rooms, a 50-bed hospital facility, digital radiological services, a diagnostic and clinical laboratory, a pharmacy, an optometry lab, a CAT scan and two oxygen-producing plants. The vessel also has a helicopter deck capable of landing large military helicopters, as well as side ports to take on patients at sea.

The embark will offer interested news media an opportunity to see the USNS Comfort's capabilities, interview crewmembers and medical support staff and acquire B-roll of this unique hospital ship. Interested media should respond quickly. Accommodations aboard the helicopters and ship are very limited, and only two individuals per news organization (with equipment) are permitted.

For more information about USNS Comfort, visit <http://www.comfort.navy.mil>. To learn more about U.S. Southern Command, visit <http://www.southcom.mil>.

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